

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
LAND ACQUISITION  
SOUTH BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS**

**Background**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois located approximately 47 miles south of Chicago. The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is in the process of nationally developing a number of columbarium-only national cemeteries as part of its Urban Initiative program, which will provide a burial option for Veterans and their families in metropolitan areas who reside farther than 50 miles and one-hour drive time from their nearest national cemetery. As part of this initiative NCA seeks to establish a columbarium-only national cemetery in the northern Chicago metropolitan area.

**Proposed Action**

The VA is proposing to acquire 15- acres of developable land in the northern Chicago metropolitan area on which to develop the columbarium-only national cemetery. The Proposed Action will allow the VA to provide a burial option to eligible Veterans and their families nearer to the urban core of the city and on the North side of Chicago metropolitan area for the next 100+ years.

**Actions Completed**

Pursuant to Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared.

**Conclusions**

The Draft EA identifies, analyzes and documents the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and economic impacts associated with the VA's Proposed Action. The Draft EA also evaluates the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts resulting from the Proposed Action. The proposed action and the no action alternative are considered.

**Draft Environmental Assessment Location**

The public is advised that it has 30 days to respond from the date of this publication with comments. The public comment period will end on 28 November 2018. A public meeting will be held on **8 November 2018** at the **Hilton Garden Inn – Hoffman Estates** located at **2425 Barrington Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195** from **6:30 – 8:30 pm**. Hard copies of the Draft EA are available for public review at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, the Barrington Area Library, 505 North Northwest Highway, Barrington, Illinois, 60010, and the VA website: [www.cem.va.gov/ea.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/ea.asp)

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